

**Title:** NELGA Southern Africa Hosts Expert Group Meeting on Land Governance Training in Mauritius

**Date:** 2–4 December 2024

**Venue:** Le Suffren and Labourdonnais Hotel, Port Louis, Mauritius



The Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA) Southern Africa successfully convened the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on **"Land Governance and Land-Related Training Programmes in NELGA Southern Africa: Scope and Validation"** from 2–4 December 2024 in Port Louis, Mauritius. The event hosted by the University of Mauritius, brought together leading academics, policymakers, and partners from across Southern Africa to access land governance training programs within NELGA-affiliated institutions.

### **Key Highlights of the Event**

The 3-day meeting featured insightful discussions, country experiences and a validation meeting, aimed at addressing gaps and opportunities in land governance education in Southern Africa.

#### **Day 1: Setting the Content**

Opening remarks from Ms Elina Teodol, NELGA-SA Board Chairperson, and Dr. Kirtee Baguant-Moonshiram, NELGA Local Coordinator (University of Mauritius).

Presentations from regional representatives, including Dr. Fatima Mandhu (ZCAS University, Zambia), Dr. Edward Chikwenda (Malawi University), and Prof. James

Chakwizira (University of Venda, South Africa), reflected on the progress and challenges in land governance programs in their respective universities.



## Day 2: Validation of Findings

Consultants presented findings on the status of land governance training programs.

Partners of NELGA- SA participants held discussions validating gaps in curricula and explored strategies to improve the quality and relevance of training and educational programmes on Land governance. Key themes included capacity building, interdisciplinary approaches, and fostering innovation.



### Day 3: Sustainability and Next Steps

A consensus blueprint was developed for NELGA-SA's sustainability in the post-GIZ funding period. Discussions emphasized partnerships, resource mobilization, and strengthening collaborations across governments, academia, and industry.



### Key Outcomes

#### The Expert Group Meeting successfully:

- Validated the scope of existing training programs in land governance.
- Highlighted the need for enhanced curricula, interdisciplinary approaches, and innovative tools.
- Established a consensus for NELGA-SA's sustainable growth and long-term impact.
- NELGA Southern Africa remains committed to strengthening land governance education and fostering regional collaboration to address the challenges of tenure security, gender equity, and sustainable land management. Stay tuned for more updates on NELGA initiatives, upcoming workshops, and opportunities for collaboration.
- The necessity of establishing structured mentorship programs to prepare and empower the next generation of land governance leaders, ensuring continuity, sustainability, and the long-term impact of NELGA initiatives.